



## The Catechism on Beer.

(By Julia Colman, National Temperance Publication House.)

### LESSON XIII.—BEER AND CRIME.

'Bad habits continued often lead to crime.' What is the effect of beer on the moral character?

The beer-drinker is inclined to be morose, brutal, and surly.

Where can this readily be seen?

In the beer-saloons, where quarrelling is very common.

In large cities scarcely a morning passes without reports of cases in court of quarrels among beer-drinkers. Of course there are many cases which never get reported in court.

Are these cases often serious?

They often result in bloodshed, and sometimes in murder.

A New York jurymen says: 'We had five or six murderers on trial, and nearly all before the murder had been drinking what a German would call a moderate amount of lager-beer—say one to two quarts—and sometimes it was ale.'—'Beer Question.'

What does Dr. Crothers say about beer-drinkers?

'The most dangerous class of tramps and ruffians in our large cities are beer-drinkers.' Of what ages are these criminals?

Of all ages, but the young are the most numerous.

Dr. M. L. Holbrook, in speaking of the criminal court, says: 'Most of the criminals were young. Perhaps the most painful murder-case was a boy of seventeen (son of very respectable parents), who killed a comrade while under the influence of lager-beer. The fight which occurred at the time was among about a dozen boys from fifteen to twenty years of age, and all had been drinking lager-beer freely.'—'Beer Question.'

Give the testimony of Judge Pilman.

'After eight months of free beer in Massachusetts there was an increase of sixty-eight percent in the aggregate of crime.'

How does beer compare with the stronger drinks in producing crime?

It is worse, for with the stronger drinks they soon become stupid, while with beer they remain able to do mischief.

The district attorney of Essex Co., Mass., said: 'The excessive use of the stronger drinks is liable to make men drunk and helpless, unable to do much harm, while beer excites men to acts of violence, desperation and crime.'

What are the results of beer-drinking in England?

Just as bad as elsewhere.

Of fifty government convicts at one time, forty-three gave as the cause of their crimes beer and bad company, or both. Forty-six jail chaplains in England, being asked about the effect of opening free beer-houses, testified to the floods of vice let loose. One said: 'I believe it impossible for human language to describe the misery and wickedness added to the previous sum of moral and social ills by the beer-houses.'

How, then, ought we to look upon the beer-houses?

As so many nurseries of crime in the land.

## 'We Played Cards and Drank Wine.'

Strolling leisurely along the street, a well-dressed young lady passed me. She gave a peculiar call. It was answered by a girl about her own size and age. The two girls seated themselves on the edge of a porch and at once began an animated chit-chat, and so loud as to be distinctly heard rods off. This is a part of what I was almost compelled to hear:

'Yes, we played cards with the gentlemen, and drank a good deal of wine, and perhaps said and did things that we ought not to, but the folks needn't make such an awful fuss about it.'

'Sh—!' warned her companion. 'If my mother were to hear what you say it would be the last of my going out of this house after dark.'

So long as men with rotten hearts are on the lookout for victims, and such careless ones present themselves, as these girls apparently were, recruits will continue to swell the army of the lost.

'We played cards and drank wine.' When did they begin this habit of wine-drinking, I wonder? Once when my field of labor in this Gospel temperance work was in one of the interior towns of the Middle States, I met on the principal avenue a young woman, a former pupil in the Sunday-school in a distant village. A moment's conversation showed me how the cruel vulture had done its ghoulish work. The spirit of the good Samaritan moved me. I prayed that I might be able to turn her wayward feet. The purity of blessed childhood's days and scenes, associations sweet and sacred, hallowed memories, early playmates—all, all were presented in the brilliant color of hope and trust. A mist filled her eyes.

'Come, I'll take you home. In less than a day we'll be there. How glad your parents will be to see you! Surely you do not forget the love of father and mother, and you want to see them again, don't you, Mary?'

Straightening herself up to her full height, her face white, her form rigid and strained, in a voice whose tone conveyed hate, mingled with utter despair, she answered:

'Yes, I do remember them. They taught me to drink wine at the family board. I was told to drink it like a lady. Easily and quickly enough I learned to like it. I tried to drink it "like a lady." Under its influence, the bottle was drained; my brain reeled; the world was torn from under my feet; the sky became all brass. To-day I am eating the ashes of the apples of the Dead Sea. There is nothing left worth living for. I can't fight against the odds much longer. Every hand pushes me nearer the bottom; then comes the end. Some day I must stand at the bar of God, and I tell you I shall be a true witness against those who taught me to "drink wine like a lady."—'Christian Observer.'

## Cheaper And More Poisonous

(Joseph Alford Conwell, New Jersey.)

There is much said and written about the appalling number of persons who drink. Yet two or three times as many use tobacco. While more money is spent for drink, it must be remembered that, relatively considered, tobacco is much cheaper than alcoholic liquors. A glass of beer costs as much as many smokes and chews, and a glass of whiskey, brandy or wine as much as a dozen cigarettes or a whole plug or bag of tobacco.

Our annual consumption of alcoholic liquors is over one billion gallons, or about sixteen gallons to each man, woman and child. The most of this is lager beer, containing about four or five percent of alcohol, the remainder being wine, containing from ten to twenty percent of alcohol, and whiskey, brandy and other liquors containing about fifty percent of alcohol. The total amount of pure alcohol in all liquors annually consumed in our land is less than 100,000,000 gallons or about five quarts for each individual.

Our annual tobacco crop is nearly 500,000,000 pounds. This is over five pounds for every man, woman and child. From this is made over three billion cigarettes, over four billion cigars, about one hundred million pounds of smoking and nearly two hundred million pounds of chewing tobacco. According to a fair calculation, to consume our annual tobacco crop, it requires that no less than twelve million boys and men smoke or chew three hours daily.

While they are both powerful narcotics, and in over-doses produce death, tobacco is the more virulent and deadly, although the more insidious and subtle, of the two. According to Taylor's 'Treatise on Poisons,' eleven ounces of alcohol is the smallest recorded fatal dose swallowed by an adult, the victim living nearly two hours. But thirty grains of tobacco have produced death in twenty minutes. Dr. Kellogg asserts that there is enough poison in a pound of tobacco to kill 300 persons.

According to these authorities there are about 1,000,000,000 fatal doses of alcohol in our annual production of alcoholic liquors. But our annual crop of tobacco contains enough poison to kill 120,000,000,000 persons, or more than one hundred times as much poison as the annual production of alcohol. If only one one-hundredth part of the poison in tobacco entered the system in chewing or smoking mankind would, even then, re-

ceive as much poison from its use as from alcoholic beverages.

The combustion of tobacco in smoking does not destroy the nicotine, as many suppose. Kissing has recovered 52 percent of what the tobacco originally contained from its smoke. There is abundant evidence that in both chewing and smoking a large percentage of the nicotine which tobacco contains enters the system.

## Correspondence

Pomeroy, Man.

Dear Editor,—Our school is on the bank of Tobacco creek. It is very pleasant in the summer, and we scholars take our boots and stockings off and wade through the water. We drive to school, for we live two miles from it. In summer we drive one horse and two in the winter. We have a jolly time when we get the sleigh well filled with scholars.

I have a little baby brother one year and eight months old, who does some funny things sometimes. One day, when mamma came in the kitchen, he was taking out the ashes with the dipper, scattering them over himself, floor and stove.

ETHEL (aged 9).

Mulgrave, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I am visiting grandpa and grandma Troup. They have taken the 'Messenger' ever since it was printed. They have sent it to me ever since I could read. Grandpa Sherk has lots of bees and we have lots of honey to eat.

JOSIE S. (aged 10).

Lisgar, Que.

Dear Editor,—I am going to school now. I make the fires, I have done it for three winters. I have a brother in the Dairy School in St. Hyacinthe. I have three nephews and three nieces. There is a deaf and dumb boy at our place. My mother is president of the W. C. T. U. here.

REGINALD S. L. (aged 13).

Eugenia, Ont.

Dear Editor,—I live near the Falls in the village of Eugenia, which is situated on the Beaver river. At our annual Sunday-school entertainment, instead of the programme, a man from Orangeville had a magic lantern, with very interesting pictures of the Christian life of Dr. Paton as a missionary of the New Hebrides Islands.

VIRGIE Mc.M. (aged 10).

McLellan's Brook.

Dear Editor,—We have been taking the 'Messenger' for fifteen years and the 'Witness' for twenty years. We have a dog named Jack and we harness him in the sled in the winter and he will haul us. My father has gone to the gold mines with a load of stamps to crush the gold. The mines are so far from the railway that the company has to hire teams to haul the machinery.

JOHN H. F.

Nappan, N.S.

Dear Editor,—I had the 'Messenger' taken for me, by my aunt, as a Christmas present, and I think it is a very nice paper. I live near a railway; it is at the back of the house, and in front of it is a large hill, on which we go berrying in the summer. I sprained my ankle coasting down a hill with two other of my schoolmates, and cannot go to school. The school girls either write notes and send them by my sister or come to see me. I like them to come best. I don't think many people around here take the 'Messenger,' so I am going to try to get some subscribers for it. The 'Experimental Farm' is only about one mile from where I live, and I have been all over the barns. I liked the little girl's letter about 'Crossing the Prairie,' but I cannot think of her name just now. I think I will close my letter, as I have written quite a long one.

BLANCHE B. (aged 11).

Little Musquash, N.B.

Dear Editor,—I live on the coast of the Bay of Fundy, and we have a great time sliding and skating. We have an organ, and I can play quite a lot. Grandpa lives a few yards from our door, and he lives all alone, I sometimes scrub and get his meals for him.

EFFIE (aged 12).